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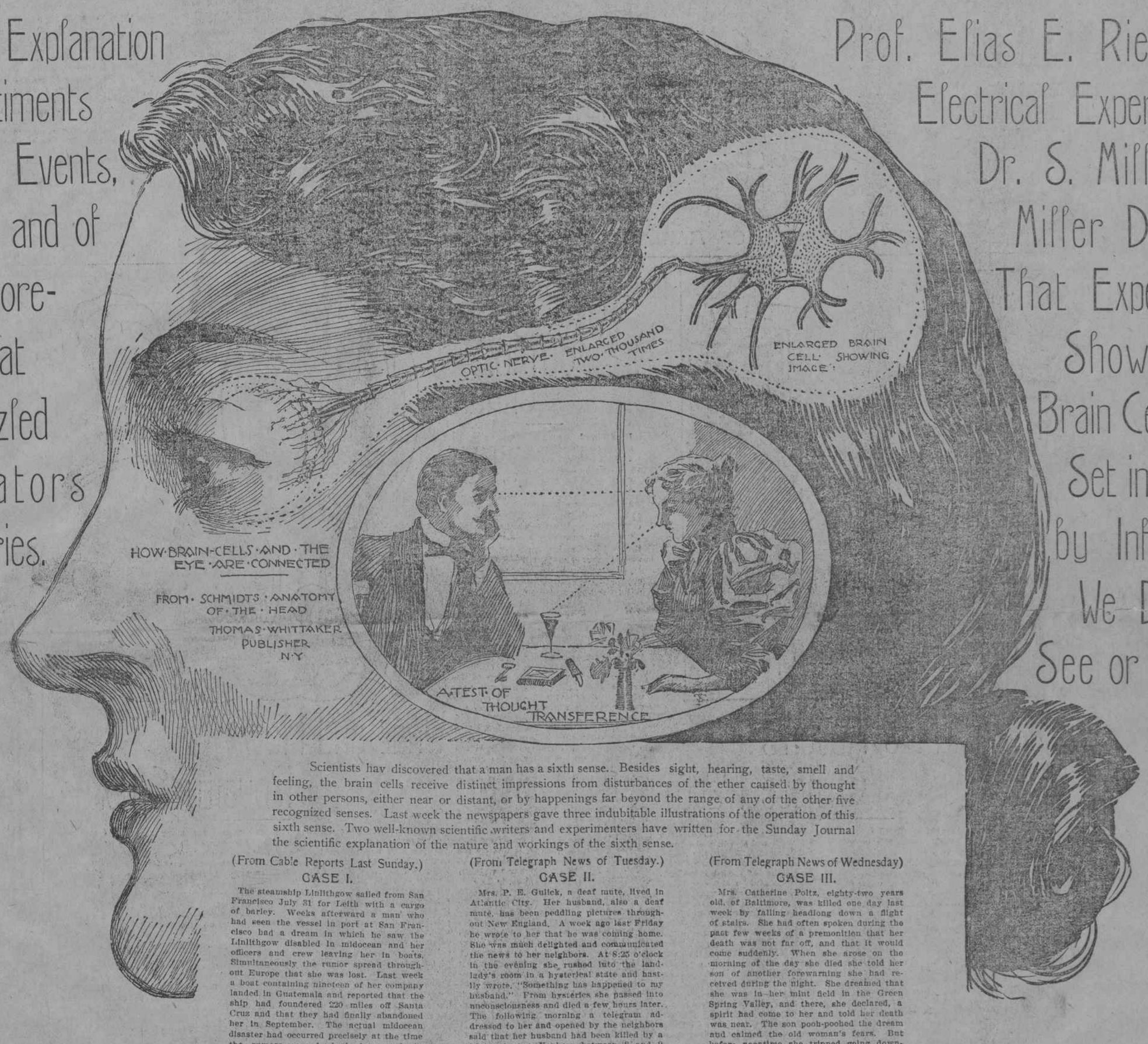
SCIENTISTS DISCOVER THAT WE HAVE A SIXTH SENSE.

The Real Explanation of Presentiments of Coming Events, of Dreams and of Strange Foreboding That Have Puzzled Investigators for Centuries.

How It Happens That Two Widely Separated Persons See the Same Things.

Prof. Elias E. Ries, the Electrical Expert, and Dr. S. Millington Miller Declare That Experiment Shows Our Brain Cells Are Set in Motion by Influences We Do Not See or Know.

Physical Laws That Govern the Operation of So-Called "Occult" Happenings.



Scientists hav discovered that a man has a sixth sense. Besides sight, hearing, taste, smell and feeling, the brain cells receive distinct impressions from disturbances of the ether caused by thought in other persons, either near or distant, or by happenings far beyond the range of any of the other five recognized senses. Last week the newspapers gave three indubitable illustrations of the operation of this sixth sense. Two well-known scientific writers and experimenters have written for the Sunday Journal the scientific explanation of the nature and workings of the sixth sense.

(From Cable Reports Last Sunday.)

CASE I.

The steamship Linlithgow sailed from San Francisco July 31 for Leith with a cargo of barley. Weeks afterward a man who had seen the vessel in port at San Francisco had a dream in which he saw the Linlithgow disabled in midocean and her officers and crew leaving her in boats. Simultaneously the rumor spread throughout Europe that she was lost. Last week a boat containing nineteen of her company landed in Guatemala and reported that the ship had foundered 220 miles off Santa Cruz and that they had finally abandoned her in September. The actual midocean disaster had occurred precisely at the time the rumors spread both here and in Europe.

(From Telegraph News of Tuesday.)

CASE II.

Mrs. P. E. Gulick, a deaf mute, lived in Atlantic City. Her husband, also a deaf mute, has been peddling pictures throughout New England. A week ago last Friday he wrote to her that he was coming home. She was much delighted and communicated the news to her neighbors. At 8:25 o'clock in the evening she rushed into the landlady's room in a hysterical state and hastily wrote, "Something has happened to my husband." From hysterics she passed into unconsciousness and died a few hours later. The following morning a telegram addressed to her and opened by the neighbors said that her husband had been killed by a locomotive at Yonkers between 8 and 9 o'clock the evening before.

(From Telegraph News of Wednesday)

CASE III.

Mrs. Catherine Poltz, eighty-two years old, of Baltimore, was killed one day last week by falling headlong down a flight of stairs. She had often spoken during the past few weeks of a premonition that her death was not far off, and that it would come suddenly. When she arose on the morning of the day she died she told her son of another forewarning she had received during the night. She dreamed that she was in her mint field in the Green Spring Valley, and there, she declared, a spirit had come to her and told her death was near. The son pooh-poohed the dream and calmed the old woman's fears. But before noontime she tripped going downstairs and fell to her death.

Dr. S. Millington Miller's Statement.

To W. R. Hearst, New York Journal:

A number of hitherto mysterious phenomena are at the present age of scientific discovery arranging themselves into a methodical and easily apprehended system. What has been passing strange is becoming overplain. Things hitherto called "occult" are hidden no longer. Things which occurring in the everyday lives of the most commonplace people have been classed as supernatural, have in the light of recent science been found to be merely the workings of a sixth sense, therefore unclassified, and, in fact, unknown.

Of these are "telepathy," or "thought transference," so-called; also dreams which come true, forebodings of disaster, and all that series of phenomena which the superstitious have been wont to attribute to some superhuman power.

Here are instances of the manifestations of this sixth sense. They are no doubt familiar to every one.

I look steadily at a fellow passenger in a train. In a longer or shorter time, according to the comparative strength of our wills, the scrutiny is felt and acknowledged.

I fix my gaze on some object on the table, and after thus burning its shape and other qualities into cells in the sight centre of my brain, I seek out some individual in the room who is what hypnotists call "sensitive," and try to force him, by pure thought transference, to think of and look at the same object. If my will is strong, I usually succeed in making him do so within a reasonable time.

I think just as I step out of the front door. "I will meet so-and-so today," and, lo and behold! we come face to face on Fifth avenue or Broadway.

I have a dread intuition at such and such a moment that a very dear friend with whom I have always been "sympathetic" is dying at that moment. The mail in a day or so brings me the awful confirmation.

I sit down and write to A., and "will" that A. should write to me at the same moment. The letters thus exchanged without the passage of words pass each other in transit and are delivered in widely separate cities at practically the same moment of time.

If there is any one absorbing bent of the science of the close of the nineteenth century it is the study of "The Physics of Ether." Sir William Thomson and John Tyndall have contributed generously to our knowledge of this perplexing branch. Their researches and those of a host of investigators in practical physics show us that ether is a tenuous, elastic, impenetrable substance, which fills all space. Its particles occupy all the crevices and crannies between the molecules of matter.

If I push my hand through four feet of the atmosphere in front of me, I move all the ether in the universe to a slight degree. If I push this elastic, impenetrable "jelly" two feet away from my shoulder with my open hand, its motion completes the circuit of the globe in a second, and the far end of the column swells out and fills the vacuum after my forward-pushing hand. In other words, I push the air, and the ether passes through my hand.

Electricity, light, the "Roentgen" ray, sound are all different forms of the motion of this ether. If it be light the motion is in the form of undulating waves, like those produced in a rope fastened at one end and suddenly shaken at the other. If it be electricity, the motion takes the form of gradually widening circles about the wire. If it be sound, and sound is primarily air-motion, though practically ether-motion—the impulse is transported in what the physicist calls vibrating waves.

Nerve force resembles electricity more than any other mode of motion of ether, except that it moves very slowly. My friend looks into the selenium receiver of a "telephote" in San Francisco and I see her face in the selenium transmitter, which I hold in my hand in New York. This discovery, made by Elias E. Ries, has already been described in this paper. The rose "looks" into the retinue of my eyes and its image is thrown up into a cell in the sight centre of my brain. The mechanism in both cases is precisely the same. The selenium receiver changes light waves into waves of electricity and back again at the transmitter end of the wire into the original picture.

And now let me apply the facts we have obtained to telepathy, or the evidence of the sixth sense. Every sensation coming from the outer world begins in a local disturbance, not only of molecular matter, but also of the ether which permeates it.

The lighting up of an image, or of images, in my brain cells by the passage of the electric spark of thought causes a series of local disturbances in these cells, and the waves of ether so started widen out from them until they reach and light up the particles in a cell in some other brain where the image of the same object is stored.

This is the physical explanation of telepathy. Every picture which the thought spark lights up in one of the brain cells creates ether waves in the very act of becoming luminous. These waves circle through space simultaneously in all directions.

It is very easy to understand how brains attuned to the reception of these delicate space messages may almost instantly apprehend sights and sounds and thought whose original disturbance occurs many miles away.

S. MILLINGTON MILLER, M. D.

Prof. Elias E. Ries's Statement.

To W. R. Hearst, New York Journal:

Every phenomenon that we perceive through our organs of sense, every impression of which the human body is capable, is directly due to vibrations of ether in one form or another. Our eyes are so constituted as to separate the particular vibrations corresponding to those of light from the accompanying heat waves or vibrations and from all other vibrations with which the ether may be charged, much in the same way that a tuning fork of a certain pitch will respond to and be set vibrating by sound waves corresponding in frequency with its own, but will reject and remain uninfluenced by other sound waves.

The physical connection between our sense of sight and the thought cells of our brain is very close. Most of our mental conceptions are primarily based upon impressions that at one time or another have fixed themselves upon the retina of our eyes and have become impressed upon the corresponding brain cells by transmission along the optic nerves.

However, the retina and the optic nerve are by no means the only channels through which sensations may be conveyed to the brain. Leaving out of consideration for the time being the other well-known channels of communication established between the brain and our terminal organs of hearing, touch, taste and smell, which are all affected directly by some particular or specific form of ether vibration capable of being received and translated by them, respectively, into the different classes of sensations of which the human organism is at present cognizant, there still remains another and as yet imperfectly developed sense, vastly more direct and far-reaching than any of these, and one that is likely to ultimately become of transcendent importance to the human race. This all-important sense is nothing less than the production and transmission of human thought through the agency of vibrations impressed upon and transmitted by the universal ether!

If we stop to analyze, from a physical rather than a physiological point of view, what goes on during the act of thinking, we will find that the proposition here advanced is based upon the immutable laws of nature herself.

In the first place, the act of thought, like every other human action, requires the expenditure of a certain amount of energy. If we clap our hands in the air, or utter a sound, we find that a part of the bodily energy is converted into sound waves which are transmitted to a distance depending upon the force of the disturbance and the resistance opposed by the atmosphere. In the case of thought, the energy manifests itself in a molecular disturbance of the particular brain cells affected, which return to their normal state of equilibrium after the disturbing force is removed. The primary effect of such disturbance is to present a mental image (if the thought concerns some object) of the thing thought of, which continues so long as this particular molecular excitation or vibration lasts.

There is, however, a contemporaneous secondary effect, which is none other than the setting up of vibrations in the all-pervading and all-surrounding ether, these vibrations being caused by, and bearing a fixed relation to the molecular vibrations of the particular brain cells in question.

Owing to the tenuous nature of the ether and the quality it possesses of being thrown into vibration by the most delicate molecular movement, of which fact we have abundant evidence, it follows that the vibrations thus impressed upon the ether by our brain cells are not limited as to distance of travel, as in the case of atmospheric vibrations, but are capable of being transmitted with the speed of light or of electricity itself—at a speed of 185,000 miles per second—to the uttermost limits of the earth; and if sufficiently strong to penetrate beyond our atmosphere, into the limits of infinite space.

Just as varying shades of color affect our eyes by virtue of slight differences in the rate and amplitude of the ether vibrations within the range of the visible spectrum, so also will the slightest variation in the rate and amplitude of the molecular vibrations of the brain cells arising from the different shades of thought, impress itself upon the ether waves and determine their character. These secondary effects in the shape of ether waves do not necessarily depend for their conversion and emission upon any special external organ or nerve centre, but may be transmitted directly from the brain or seat of disturbance itself into surrounding space.

Now, in order to make these other vibrations or waves of thought perceptible at any desired distance from their source or point of origin, all that is needed is a suitable receptive body, capable of responding to and of being thrown into vibration by these ether waves. The diaphragm of a distant receiving telephone, for instance, is thrown into sound-producing vibrations that correspond identically with the original sound vibrations impressed upon the diaphragm of the transmitter.

A receptive body of the kind we require for the perception of our ether waves is not very difficult to find. We all carry with us, in a more or less developed state, the elements necessary in the shape of our own brain cells. All that is needed is to find or develop a brain whose cells or molecules are so attuned as to be capable of being set into vibration by the ether waves in the same manner and at the same rate as the original thought vibrations, in order to give rise in the receiving mind to the identical impressions and thoughts that for the time being are present in the transmitting mind.

ELIAS E. RIES.